

REMARKS

Pending Claims:

Claims 1 - 37 are cancelled. Claims 38- 81 are added by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 38 – 81 are under consideration in the above-identified patent application. No new matter has been added. Support for claims 38 – 81 is found throughout the specification.

Amendments to Specification:

The amendments to the specification are made to correct typographical errors and for clarity. For example, the word "or" was inadvertently left out of paragraph 0070. No new matter has been added.

Restriction Requirement:

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-37 were pending. The Examiner classified these claims into groups as follows: claims 1-2 and 12-18 as Group I, claims 1 and 3-18 as Group II, claims 1,2 and 19-25 as Group III, claims 1, 3-11 and 19-25 as Group IV, claims 26-28 as Group V, claims 1,2 and 29-37 as Group VI, and claims 1, 3-11 and 29-37 as Group VII.

Original claims 1-37 are cancelled by this amendment. Claims 38-81 have been added by this amendment. Applicant hereby elects without traverse Group IV, directed to a method for determining susceptibility of a thymus in a patient to activation through disruption of sex steroid signaling, wherein the method of disrupting sex steroid mediated signaling to the thymus is through administration of pharmaceuticals and the method comprises the step of monitoring the concentration of one or more thymopoietic hormones. Applicant believes that all of claims 38-81 fall within Group IV. However, Applicant reserves the right to prosecute original claims 1-37 and similar or related claims in continuation and/or divisional applications.

Accordingly, claims 38-81 are under consideration in the above-identified patent application. No new matter has been added. Support for claims 38-81 is found throughout the specification.

Species Election:

The Examiner further requests under 35 U.S.C. 121(1) that Applicant elect a single disclosed species to which the claims would be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable, and to list all claims readable thereon including those subsequently added. For example, the Examiner has requested election of a particular pharmaceutical selected from the Groups recited in original claim 6 (if Group IV is elected) and election of a specific thymopoietic hormone selected from the Groups recited in original claim 20 (if Group IV is elected). In accordance with Applicant's suggested grouping of the claims, Applicant elects the species Lutrelin and thymulin (or Factor Thymique Serique). Applicant believes that claims 38 – 81 correspond to the elected species.

Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner allow claims 38 – 81.

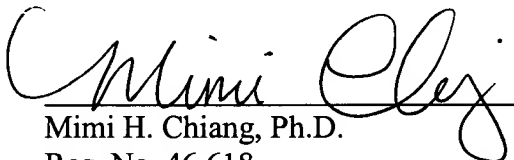
If the Examiner feels for any reason that direct contact with Applicants' attorney will advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number given below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0946.

Respectfully submitted,

IRELL & MANELLA LLP

Dated: 6-30-03

By: 
Mimi H. Chiang, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 46,618

Irell & Manella, LLP
1800 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 900
Los Angeles, CA 90067
(310) 277-1010